

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
/059 W

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R 211459Z APR 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3056  
SECDEF WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAQE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2309

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR NATO  
SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING INCREASE

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 03860, 191551Z APR 77  
(B) STATE 84815, 150045Z APR 77  
(C) USNATO 1035, 251631Z FEB 77

SUMMARY: IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE 19 APRIL 1977,  
THE BELGIAN REP (COL BAEYENS) REPORTED THE VIEW OF HIS MOD  
THAT THE GOB COULD MAKE NO DECISION UNTIL SOMETIME IN MAY  
1977 (I.E., AFTER FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT) AND THE  
ITALIAN REP (COL GIAMMARCO) REMAINED WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS.  
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAS 3 AND 4.  
END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE 19 APRIL 1977, IN  
THE COURSE OF ROUTINE REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON THE CEILING  
INCREASE, THE BELGIAN AND ITALIAN REPS HAD NOTHING NEW TO  
REPORT, OTHER THAN THE INEVITABILITY OF FURTHER DELAY IN  
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A POSITIVE COMMITMENT BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE ITALIAN REP SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AND  
INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO IMPORTANT MOVEMENT ON THE  
QUESTION IN ROME. HE DID SUGGEST THAT THERE MIGHT BE  
SOMETHING (WE HESITATE TO SAY BREAKTHROUGH) TO REPORT  
WITHIN TWO WEEKS, AND THAT HE HELD SOME UNOFFICIAL INFORMA-  
TION WHICH HE COULD NOT RELEASE TO THE COMMITTEE. COMMENT:  
WE CONTINUE TO BE UNEASY ABOUT THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE ITALIAN  
FAILURE TO EVEN MAKE A GENERAL COMMITMENT TO THE CEILING

INCREASE (PARA 4, REF C), AND LOOK FORWARD TO CLARIFICATION FROM EMBASSY ROME (REF B). END COMMENT.

3. THE BELGIAN REP READ TO THE COMMITTEE A MEMORANDUM FROM THE MOD TO THE BELGIAN DELEGATION STATING THAT THE DECISION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE COULD NOT BE TAKEN BEFORE FORMATION OF THE NEW TINDEMANS' GOVERNMENT, PROBABLY EARLY TO MID-MAY. COMMENT: THIS NEW OBSTACLE, WHILE ANNOYING, IS MINOR COMPARED TO THE CONTINUED PRE-OCCUPATION OF THE MOD (REPORTED REF A) WITH THE RELATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE "NATO-SPONSORED PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION". WHILE IT SEEMS, IN PRINCIPLE, NOT UNREASONABLE FOR NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND POLICY-MAKING BODIES TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES FOR MAJOR CONCURRENT OUTLAYS, IT IS TOTALLY UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THIS KIND OF RETROACTIVE NATO GUIDELINE ON THE CURRENT ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THIS POINT NEEDS TO BE MADE FORCEFULLY TO MOD AND MFA BELGIUM AND, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATELY MADE BY THE SYG, SACEUR, OR THE CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE, WE DOUBT THAT THEY WILL INTERVENE IN THE PRESENT CLIMATE. WITHOUT ADDITIONAL PRODDING, WE SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF PASSIVE DELAY BY THE GOB UNTIL IT HAS BECOME IMPRACTICAL TO USEFULLY ABSORB ANY SIZABLE INCREASE INTO THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT EMBASSY  
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BRUSSELS TO MAKE A FURTHER DEMARCHE ON THIS POINT.  
PEREZ

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Subject:** INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING INCREASE  
**TAGS:** MARR NATO  
**To:** STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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